

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 25, 1895, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Paris, France. 10 rue Nitot. May 25, 1895. My dear Alec:

Madame La Superieure thinks Elsie too young to take singing lessons. What do you say to this? She thinks that with the change of climate and habits of life coming over here the risk is too great, especially as she is not strong. Mrs. Mauro does not agree with this view and I have asked her to take Elsie to have her voice tried and get the opinion of the singer she herself will go to. Then I will tell you and let you decide. Please cable what you decide. I am entirely unwilling to take any responsibility in this matter, although it seems to me Elsie is as well able to take lessons now as she ever will be.

We continue pleased with our new abode. I can not tell much about the lessons yet and the children are shy of mixing with the others in the garden, but this is to be expected.

We have French breakfast in my bedroom at eight and the children report at half past. Lunch is at twelve and dinner at seven and I have some milk or fruit for the children in my room between the two as it is too long a wait for them. At lunch and dinner today they gave us meat, all the other boarders had only fish, it being Friday. We have two helpings of everything. For lunch we have Hors d'Oeuvre, eggs or something of that kind, then meat and a vegetable, then cream cheese and fresh fruit. For dinner soup, two courses of meat, salad, a course of vegetables, dessert and fruit and cake. Everything is nicely served and the Mother 2 keeps things going like a family party, she is so bright and vivacious and looks after everybody. The children are entertained at the French expressions they hear.

Daisy is not as well as I should like. She complains of headache and sleeplessness, but I don't think either are very bad. I think she needs more exercise in the fresh air and she

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will have it now. I have just been up to see her and neither child has moved since their heads touched the pillow. Their room is not on the same floor as mine but I did not think that mattered for a week as I leave my door unlocked. This is an advantage of living in a convent. I think I will retire to one in this way when I am old and friendless. Meantime I prefer my husband's protection.

My room is full of lilies-of-the-valley. How are my flowers at Beinn Bhreagh getting on? The crocus and hyacinth must be in bloom now and the tulips pushing forward. The bankers say they forwarded me two letters which I ought to have got this morning. I am much disturbed that they have not turned up. Perhaps one was from you. I will enquire all around, but they say they did not reach either the convent or our house. I have registered Leban. Charles is still at the Vendome where he says he gets 6 courses for dinner.

This is hardly worth postage except as a means of carrying you renewed assurance of my love.

Ever yours dear Alec.